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the Partido Vanguardia Popular (PVP)

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The following report covers the activities of the Vanguardia Popular Party (PVP) during the period February 1948 to February 1949, concluding with a description of the organizational structure known to source at the present time. Source attempts to trace some of the factors causing the present demoralization of PVP morale and organization, and ventures occasional predictions based upon his personal knowledge of the intentions of PVP leaders, specifically Luis Carballo Corrales and Jaime Cerdas Mora.

1. Activities of the PVP during Presidential Elections of February 1948. The majority of PVP members voted for presidential candidate Dr. Rafael Angel Calderon Guardia, in spite of apparent Party support of Humberto Gonzalez Segura. The Party worked and voted directly for its own ticket of deputies and municipal candidates filed in each of the provinces. The following deputies were elected:

Arnoldo Ferreto Segura
Luis Carballo Corrales
Alfredo Picado Saenz*
Carlos Luis Saenz
Carlos Luis Fallas Sibaja
Federico Picado Saenz*

Province of San Jose
Province of Alajuela
Province of Cartago
Province of Heredia
Province of Puntarenas
Province of Limon

2. Upon learning that the results of the presidential elections were favorable to Otilio Ulate Blanco, the PVP commenced manifestations alleging that many Party affiliates had not voted, owing to irregularities in the electoral system then under the direction of the Ulatista Benjamin Odio and his associates. Manuel Mora, Secretary-General of the PVP, maintained continual contact with then President Picado and with Francisco Calderon Guardia, Chief of Action of the National Republican Party, and it was resolved to annul the elections for President of the Republic, which was done in the congressional session of 1 March 1948.
3. Knowing that the annulment of Ulate's election would mean revolution, PVP members sent their families out of town to prevent reprisals against their wives, sisters, and children. The Party prepared itself for the ensuing revolt by concentrating all its membership in various unidentified clubs.

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4. Military Activities of PVP in the Revolution of 11 March 1948. The PVP had maintained 1000 armed men, the majority of whom were Nicaraguans brought from the banana zones of the Pacific and Atlantic and from Puntarenas, in the Bella Vista and Artilleria Cuartels. These armed militants were assigned to guard the central roads, electric and water plants, and transportation facilities of Costa Rica. Source maintained that the hidden arms and archives of the Party were then and are still stored in the finca San Jose de la Montana, fifteen kilometers north of Heredia.
5. The Confederacion de Trabajadores de Costa Rica (CTCR) was converted into a military headquarters for the PVP, and there troops arrived from different parts of the country, were received and exhorted in the Party cause by Mora and assigned destinations.
6. Source attributed the apparent lack of interest of the PVP in taking over the government at this time to the possibility that Somoza might invade Costa Rica and there would be no room for Communism. PVP leaders deemed it preferable to make an arrangement with the revolutionary forces, which they effectively did. Source was definitely of the opinion that there was a working arrangement between Figueres and the PVP.**
7. Arms in the Possession of the Vanguardia Popular. Despite the confiscation of PVP arms by the junta, source maintains that the Party has in its possession no less than 500 Mauser rifles, 4 heavy Browning machine guns, 2 "60" mortars, 4 Maxim stationary heavy machine guns, 5 Neuhasen machine guns, 10 .45-caliber Rising machine guns, and other Kreda and Lewis guns.
8. Present Direction of the Vanguardia Popular. Accompanied by Carmen Lyra, Manuel Mora was forced to leave the country at the request of the governing junta. Taking refuge in Mexico, Mora has been in contact with his Party colleagues. One of the principal communications received by the Party from Mora is that the Party should remain neutral in all counter-revolutionary attempts against the governing junta.
9. In the 8 December 1948 elections for a Constitutional Convention, the Party left its militants at liberty to vote as they pleased, but recommended the ticket of the Constitutional Party, formed in the main of capitalists and enemies of the PVP. According to source, this recommendation by Mora was made to extract votes, and in this he succeeded, as the other parties opened a campaign against the Constitutional Party because of Mora's statement which constituted an alliance. Many PVP members, however, principally those of the banana zone, supported the Social Democratic Party ticket, tantamount to the revolutionary party in power.
10. According to source, the leaders of the Nicaraguan Liberation Movement have been trained by the PVP for many years. Whatever may be the movement against Somoza, the PVP, as well as the Socialist Party of Nicaragua and the Confederation of Workers of Nicaragua, will join forces, but their leaders would all be PVP members. Not only the Socialist Party of Nicaragua, but also the Comité Obrero de Liberacion Nicaraguense (COLN), have been organized in Costa Rica under the aegis of the PVP. Rosendo Arguello, Perennial Nicaraguan revolutionary, has established contact with Efraim Rodriguez, organizer of the COLN in Costa Rica. Leaders of the PVP participated in the meetings, and the affiliates for "Liberation" approach about 3000 militants.
11. Organization of the PVP. Owing to the expulsion of PVP members from private enterprises and from the government, all the cells connected thereto have ceased to exist, as well as cells in the Pacific Railroad, Public Works, and the municipal works. Cells now function and are localized in districts. The new organization for the Central Canton of San Jose is as follows:

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- a. Distrito del Carmen--composed of Barrios Amon, Cuesta de Moras, La Fabrica de Licores, Moreazan, Escalante, Santa Teresita, Otoy, Aranjuez, El Empalme, and California.
- b. Distrito la Merced--composed of Barrios Paso de la Vaca, Mexico, Penitenciaría, Rincon de Cubillos, Iglesias Flores, Peor es Nada, and La Pitahaya.
- c. Distrito Hospital--composed of Barrios San Francisco de Mata Redonda, Calle de Menas, Santa Lucia, Republica de Cuba, La Puebla, Los Angeles, Keith, la Constructora, Carit, Cementerios, Bolivar, Corazon de Jesus, San Bosco, La Polvora, El Pacifico, Los Pinos, Teodoro Picado.
- d. Distrito Catedral--composed of Barrios Dolorosa, Soledad Cuesta de Mora (Sur), Laberinto, Lujan, Casas del Gobierno, Segundo Tubo, Turrupal, California (south side), Plaza Viquez, La Cruz, Guell o. Villafranca, Gonzalez Lahmann, Universidad, San Ceyetano, and Capitolio.
- e. Distrito de Zapote--composed of Barrios Los Mangos, Turrupal, San Dimas, Ciudadela Calderon Munoz (east side), and Meria Aguilar.
- f. Distrito de San Francisco de Dos Rios--composed of Barrios Los Juanes, Y Griega, Calle Nueva, Los Mendez, and Antolin Fallas.
- g. Distrito de la Uruca--composed of Barrios Las Animas, Vueltas del Virilla, La Caja, Bajo del Rio Torres, Electriona, Callecilla de Pavas, Calle de la estacion.
- h. Distrito de Mata Redonda--composed of Barrios Calle de los Morenos, Calle del Golf Club, Calle Los Sotos, Calle de Pavas, Calle Los Alvarez, Los Anonos, Calle de la Paragueria, Sabana.
- i. Distrito de Pavas--composed of Barrios Hacienda Rohrmoser, Rincon Grande, Lecherias, San Pedro, Santa Barbara de Pavas.
- j. Distrito de Hatillo--composed of Barrio La Villanea.
- k. Distrito de San Sebastian--composed of Barrios Paso Ancho, Cascajal, Luna Park, Lotes Mongito.
12. The Political Committee or Politburo of FVP. Provisionally, this committee contains the following leaders:
- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Arnoldo Ferreto Segura | Luisa Gonzalez |
| Luis Carballo Corrales | Rodolfo Guzman Rodriguez |
| Jaima Cardas Mora | Efraim Rodriguez Vanegas |
| Carlos Luis Fallas Sibaja | Jose Vinas Vizoso |
13. Provincial Organization of the FVP. The following Secretaries General are designated in their respective provinces:
- | | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Marco Aurelio Soto | Alajuela |
| Mario Zuniga Aguilar | Puntarenas |
| Merio Mata | Cartago |
| Edwin Madrigal | Heredia |
| Adan Guevara Centeno | Guanacaste |
| Rogelio Carlos Mendoza | Limon |

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14. Vanguardia Popular Women's Organization. Women members of the PVP have been active in the intelligence service of the Party, also acting as couriers carrying orders and circulating mimeographed sheets of Trabajo, the clandestine PVP bulletin. The women's organization of the Party continues to be called Union de Mujeres del Pueblo (UMP).
15. PVP Propaganda. The editing and circulation of Trabajo is directed by Luisa Gonzalez and Arturo Montero Vega.
16. Communications of the Party. According to source, the Party is in clandestine communication with Manuel Mora in Mexico by means of a short-wave radio station. The location of this station is not yet known. In order to send communications to the exterior the Party is using Russian Poles who help the Party in Costa Rica.
17. PVP Contacts in Panama. By means of mail in the banana zone on the southern frontier the Party has contact with Baldomero Gonzalez G. in La Chorrera, Panama. Daniel Betancourt is another agent of the Party in Panama.
18. Conclusions. On the basis of his observations, source has arrived at the following conclusions:
 - a. In spite of the fact that the PVP does not at present take part in public functions, source considers that the actions of the governing junta favor future intervention of the Party in the politics of the country.
 - b. The PVP can claim whenever they want that they never had the extraordinary tax on capital in their program, but as the damage is now done and the principle established, it is possible that in the future the action or politics of the Party will be more stringent than ever against capital. If, during the present regime, it is not possible to nationalize electricity, it is certain that the campaign for its nationalization will be maintained in the future as a major plank of the Party.
 - c. The establishment of a military junta in Costa Rica will not prejudice the future development of the illegal PVP, because of the fact that oppression creates fanatics and martyrs.
 - d. The PVP has not combated the foreign militarists in Costa Rica who organized to attack Nicaragua under the name of the Caribbean Legion or Army of Liberation. The direct participation of leaders such as Juan Bosch in these military organizations and the necessity of obtaining soldiers from the working class bear no good omen for the peace of Central America, since such organizations as the PVP will maintain these soldiers on a war footing to prevent the establishment of constitutional order.

* Assassinated in December 1948.

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